

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method of providing services in a work flow system, comprising steps of:

providing a computer network;

defining a first work flow class, the first work flow class definition including definitions of classes of objects available within the work flow system and an identification of a service to be provided by an instance of the first work flow class; and

defining a second work flow class, the second work flow class including the first work flow class definition, the first work flow class definition providing a defined interface for accessing services provided by the instance of the first work flow class to an instance of the second work flow class.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising steps of:

instantiating an agent work object in the instance of the first work flow class responsive to receipt of a request from a work object in the instance of the second work flow class for a publicly available service;

transferring data from the work object to the agent work object;

processing the agent work object to provide the requested service; and

returning data to the work object.

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20. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the first and second routines are executing on the same computer.

21. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the first and second routines are executing on different computers.

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